

NEWS RELEASE



RACINE COUNTY
Office of the County Executive
WILLIAM L. McREYNOLDS

730 Wisconsin Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
262-636-3273
fax: 262-636-3549
William.McReynolds@goRacine.org

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CONTACT: Geoff Greiveldinger
(262) 636-3120
Geoff.Greiveldinger@goRacine.org

RACINE & KENOSHA COUNTY CITIZEN CORPS COUNCILS MERGE

Racine County Executive William McReynolds and Kenosha County Executive Allan Kehl announced that the Racine and Kenosha County's Citizen Corps Councils have merged and that the new council will be called the Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council.

"This is an excellent opportunity to share resources and collaborate on a regional basis," commented McReynolds, who also chairs the State of Wisconsin Citizens Corps Council. Added Kehl, "The Citizen Corps is a great tool to help accomplish the goal of preparing our citizens for all types of disasters."

The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. This mission is accomplished through a national network of state, local, and tribal Citizen Corps Councils that build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and carry out a local strategy to have every American participate.

The Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps Council will continue the work of the county councils to

- promote and strengthen emergency preparedness programs;
- provide training opportunities for for all residents, including those with special skills and interests;
- organize special projects and community events and develop targeted outreach for the community, including special needs groups; and
- encourage cooperation and collaboration among community leaders.

Among other things, the Council will enable citizens to help make our families and our communities safer through:

Personal responsibility: Developing a household preparedness plan and disaster supplies kits, observing home health and safety practices, implementing disaster mitigation measures, and participating in crime prevention and reporting.

Training: Taking classes in emergency preparedness, response capabilities, first aid, CPR, fire suppression, and search and rescue procedures.

Volunteer service: Engaging individuals in volunteer activities that support first responders, disaster relief groups, and community safety organizations. Everyone can do something to support local law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, community public health efforts, and the four stages of emergency management: prevention, mitigation, response and recovery efforts.

For more information on the Southeast Wisconsin Citizen Corps program, contact Linda Botts at (262) 636-3342 or by email at SEWICC@goRacine.org.

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